## Message Text

## CONFIDENTIAL

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R 101651Z AUG 77 FM AMEMBASSY ROME TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6469

CONFIDENTIAL ROME 13019

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, PARM, MNUC, IT

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR EXPERTS FOLLOW-UP TO LONDON ECONOMIC SUMMIT

REF: STATE 187694

1. IN ABSENCE MIN. MIGLIUOLO AND CONS. COSTA, EMBOFF CONVEYED CONTENTS PARA 1 OF REFTEL TO CONS. UGUCCIONI (MFA OFFICE VII - INTERNATIONAL ENERGY PROBLEMS). UGUCCIONI EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT U.S. HAD ACCEPTED NUCLEAR EXPERTS REPORT. HE SAID HE THOUGHT SUCH ACCEPTANCE WAS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF EVOLVING U.S. ATTITUDE ON NUCLEAR ENERGY MATTERS SINCE PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENTS ON NUCLEAR ENERGY AND PROLIFERATION IN APRIL.

- 2. HE SAID GOI HAD RECEIVED FINAL VERSION OF REPORT ONLY FEW DAYS EARLIER SO THAT CONSIDERATION OF IT HAD HARDLY BEGUN. HE EXPECTED THAT GOI WOULD COMPLETE ITS REVIEW BY END OF FIRST WEEK IN SEPTEMBER, THAT IT WOULD ACCEPT REPORT IN PRINCIPLE WITHOUT EXPRESSING ANY RESERVATIONS AND NEXT STEP WOULD BE INITIAL MEETING OF INFCE (INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE EVALUATION).
- 3. UGUCCIONI SAID A QUESTION ON ALTERNATIVE FUEL CYCLE POSSIBILITIES HAD BEEN TROUBLING HIM. HE RECALLED THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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PRESIDENT CARTER HAD MENTIONED THORIUM FAST BREEDER AS POSSIBILITY. HE UNDERSTOOD, HOWEVER, THAT U233 COULD BE EASILY EXTRACTED FROM THORIUM AND THAT THORIUM CYCLE, THEREFORE, PRESENTS DANGERS AS GREAT AS PLUTONIUM CYCLE. IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFF'S QUESTION, UGUCCIONI SAID CNEN (NATIONAL NUCLEAR ENERGY COUNCIL) OFFICIALS SHARED HIS VIEW. THEY DID NOT SEE ANY CLEAR ADVANTAGE FOR THORIUM CYCLE.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE AND INFORMATION FOR
RESPONSE TO QUESTION RAISED IN PARA 3.HOLMES

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## Message Attributes

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